

This is the dyalogus or comunyng betwixt
the wyse king Salomon and Marcolphus.





Here begynneth the dyalogus or comynicaci
on betwixt Salomon the king of iherusalē and
Marcolphus that right rude and great of body
was bnt right subtyll & wyse of wyt and full
of vndrestādyng. as therafter folowyng men
shall here.

Soon a season heretoore asking sa-
lomō full of wisdome and richesse:
sate vpō the kinges sete or stole that
was his fadres davyd : sawe co-
myng a man out of theste that was
named marcolphus. of vysage greatly mysshapen
and fowle nevyr thelesse he was right tal-
kynfelloquend & wyse. His wif had he wþt
hym whiche was more ferefull and rude to be-
holde And as they were bothe comen before kig
Salomō he behelde thaym well Thls marcols
wa. of short stature and thykke T. Hede had
he great: a brode for hede rede and ful of wrin-
kelys or frouncys: his erys hery ad to the myd-
dys of chekys hangyng. great yes and renyng.
his nether lyppe hāgyng lyke an horse. A verde
harde and fowle lyke unto a goet. The handes
short ad blockyssh His fyngres great and thy-
cke Rownde feet. & the nose thy cke and crooked. a
face lyke an asse: ad the here of hys heed lyke the
heer ef a goet: his shooes on his fete: were ovyr-
moche chorlysh and rude: and his clothys fowle
and dyrti. a shorte kote to the buttockys his ha-

syn hynge full of wrynkelys and alle his clothes
Were of the moost fowle coloure. his wyf was
of short stature and she was out of mesure thys-
ke wiyh great brestys: and the here of hyr hede
clustred lyke thystelys. She had longe wynde-
browes lyke brostelys of a swyne. Longe erys
lyke an asse. Rening yen: berdyd lyke a goethyr
vysage and skyn blacke and full of wrynkelys /
and vpon hyr great brestys she had of span bro-
de: a broche of leed: She had short syngres. full
of yreuryngys. Se had right great nosehrylles
Hyr leggys short. and hery lyke a bere/ hyr clo-
thes were rough and broken / of such a woman
or of an othre lyke unto hyre: a yongeman hath
made thies verses folowing

Femina deformis tenebrarū subdita formis
Cum turpi facie transit absq; die.

Est mala res multum turpi concedere cultum
Sed turpis nimicum turpe ferat vicium
That is to saye an evyll favouryd and a fowle
blacke wyf behovyth to shewe the dayes lyght.
It is to oure yes medycyne to se that fayre is \bar{a} d
fyne

His kyng salomō thies two persones thus had
seen/ & beholdē: he demaundēd of thaym of whēs
they weryn & of what lynage they were comyn
Marcolph⁹ thereo \bar{a} sveryd. Saye furste to vs
youre kynrede & genleagie. & of youre fadres. &
than shall I shewe & declare yon of oures/ Salo-

mon. I am of the viij. kyndredes of patryarkes.
that is to wete that iudas gate phares. phares
gat esron/ Esron gat aron/ Aron genderyd/ ami-
nab Aminadab gat naazon/ Naazon gat sal-
mō Salmō gat boos/ Boos gat obeth/ Obeth gat
ysay. ysay gat davyd king/ Davyd gat salomō the
king & that am I. Marcolf⁹ answeryd/ I am of
the viij. kindredy of Chorlys. Rustic⁹ gat rustam
Rusta gat ristum/ Ristus gat rusticellū/ Rusti-
cull⁹ gat tarcum/ Tarc⁹ gat tarcol/ Tarcol gat
pharsi/ Pharsi gat marcuel/ Marcuel gat mar-
quat/ Marquat gat marcolphū & that is I. And
my wyf is comen of the blood and. viij. kyndre-
des of vntyd ywues. That is to knowe of lu-
pica tha gat lupicana. Lupicana gat ludibrac/ Lu-
dibrac gat bonestrūg/ Bonestrung gat boledrut
Boledrut gat paldrut. Paldrut gat lordan/ Lor-
dan gat curta/ Curta gat Curtula. Curtula gat
Curtella. Curtella gat polica/ Polica gat polyca-
na. & thys is my wyf Polycana. Salomon say-
de I haue herd of the that thou kanst right we-
le clatre and speke/ and that thou art subtile of
wyf/ although that thou be mysshappyn ad chor-
lyssh: Iete vs have betwene vs alteracon. I
shal make questyons to the/ and thou shalt ther-
to answere. Marcolphus answeryd/ he that sin-
gyth worse hegyne furste. Salo. If thou kāst
uns were to alle my questyons I shall make the
ryche/ and be named above alle oþre withyn

my reaume Marcol. The phisician promysyth
the seeke folke helthe whan he hath no power
Salo. I haue iuged betwixt two lighf wimen
whiche dwellyd in oon house and forlaye a chyl-
de. Mar. Were erys are there are causes. where
women be there are wordys Salo. God ya-
we wyfdom in my mouth. for me lyke is none
in alle partys of the worlde Marcols. He
that hath evyll neigborys prayfysyth hym self
Sal. The wykkydman fleyfth. nomā folwyng
Marcol. Whan the kydde rennyth: men may se
his ars Salomō A good wif and a fayre is
to hir husbonde a pleasure Mar. A potfull of
mylke muste be kept wele from the katte Sal.
A wyse woman byldeth an house: and she that
vnwyse and a fool is: destroyeth with hir han-
des that she syndeth made Marc. A pot that
is wele baken may best endure/ and that clene
is browyn that may they fayre drinke Salo
mon A ferdefull woman shabbe praysed. Mar-
colfus A Catte that hath a good skyn shalbe
flayne Salomō A shamefast wif and a fayre
is mekyll to be belovyd Marcol. To pore men
whyte mete are to be kept Salo. A woman
stronge in doryng good who shall fynde. Mar.
Who shal fynde a catte trewe in kepyng mylke
Salo. Noon Mar. And a woman seldom Salo.
A fayre woma and an honest: is to be pray-
sed above alle rychesse that a man fynde may

Marcol. A fat woman and a great is larger in
verving than oþre. Salo. A whyf kerchyf be-
comith wele a womās hede. Mar. It standyfth
wryten: that the furre is not alllyke the sievys.
and vndre a whyte cloth often are hyd mothyf
Sal. He that sowyth wycydnesse. shal repe e-
uyll. Mar. He that sowyth chaff shal porely
mowe. Salo. Out of the mouth of a holy man
shal come good lernyng & wysedom Mar. The
asse behovyth to be allweye where he fedyfth.
for ther it growyth: where he etyfth oon gres:
ther growe xl. aren/ where he dungyfth: there
it fattyfth: where he pyssyfth there makyfth he
wete/ and where he wallowyfth there brekyfth
he the strawe. Sal. Iete an oþre preyse the
Mar. yf I shulde my self dyspreyse/ nomā shall
I please. Sal. Thou shalt efe moche onr. Mar.
That beys dryve lykke faste theyre fyngres
Sal. In an evyll wylled herte the spryft of wy-
sedome shall not entre. Mar. As ye smyte wyfth
an ape in an hard tre/ beware that the chippes
falle not in youre ye. Sal. If it is hard to spurne
arenst the sharp prykyl. Mar. The ov that dra-
wyfth bacwarde shalbe twyse prycked. Sal. Fe-
de up youre children & from thayre youthe ler-
ne thaym to do well. Mar. He that fedyfth well
is cowe etyfth often of the mylke. Salo. Allma-
ner kyndes turne ayen to theyre furste nature:
Mar. A worne tabyll cloth turnyfth ayen to his

furste kynde Sal' What the iuge kno wyrth of
right & trouthe that spekyth he out Mar. A bis-
shop that spekyth not is made a porter of a gate
Salo. Honoure is to be yeue to the maistre and
the rodde to be feryd Mar. He that is wonte to
anoite the iuges hādes of tyn tymes he makyth
his asse lene Sal. A yest a strōgr & myghty mā-
thau shalt not fyghte ne stryve ayest the streme
Marc. The vultier takyth the skyn of stronge
fowles & makryth thaym naked of theyē fetheſ
Salo. Iete vs amede vs in good that vnwy-
thyngly we have mysdone Mar. As a man wyp-
pyth his ars he doth nothing ellys Sal' Wyl-
thon n̄ of discryue any man wylch fayre wordz.
Mar. By wyt he etyth that gretyth the ether:
Salo. Wyth brawlyng people holde no cōpanye
Marc. It is reson that he of the swyne ete that
medlyth amonge te bren Sal' There be many
that kan have no shame Mar. They lyve vns-
dre the me that are lyke to howndes Sal' Theſ-
re are many that to theyr good doers do evyl for
good Marcolphus He that vevyth bred to
an othre manys howndeshall have no thanke
Salomon It is no frende that dureyth not in
frendeshyp Mar. The dung of a calf stynkyth
not longe Sal' He sekyth many occasiōs that
woll departe from his maist Mar. A woman
that woll not cōsent seyſt thatſ ſhe hat a ſkab-
byd arſe Salomon A kynges worde ſhul-
de be vnchaungible or ſtedfaſte Marcolſus

he is sone wery that plowith wylth a wolf. Sa
lomd The radissh rotys are good mete but they
stynke in the Connell. Mar. He that etyth Ra
dyssh rotys coughyth above and vndyr Sal. It
is lost that is spokyn a fore people that vndresta
de not what they here. M^r. He lesyth his shafte
that shetyth in the sande: Sal. He that stoppyth
his erys from the crying of the pore people. oure
lord god shall not here hym Mar. He that we
pyth afore a iugc lesyth his terys: Sal. Wyse vp
thou northren wynde and come forth thou sou
thren wynde and blowe through my gardyne
and the wele smellyng herby^s shall growe and
multiplie: Marc. Whan the northren wyndes
blowe than ben the high howses in great trou
ble and daunger: Salo. The deth nor povertye
wyll not be hyd Mar. A man that is frostyn
and hyde it they growe the moee: Sal. As thou
syttyst at a Richemans table beholde diligently
what comyth afore the: Mar. Alle metys that
is ordyned for the body/musste through the be
ly: and it goth in the stomak: Salo. Whan thou
syttyst at the tabyll beware that thou taste not
furst: Mar. He that syttyth in the hyghest sete/
he holdyth the uppermost place Sal As the
stronge the weyke wynnethe/ he takyth all that
he hath: Mar. The catte seeth wele whoos ber
de she lycke shall: Salo: That he wycked ferlyth
that fallyth hym ofte: Mar: He that doth evyl

and hopyth good/ is disceyvyd in thaym bothe
Sal fer the colde the slouthfull wolde not go to
plough/ be heggyd his brede: and no man wolde
hym vere Mar/ A nakyd ars no man kan rob:
be or dispoyle Salo. Studye inakyth a maystre
wele wylledz Mar. Thandys that are vsyd in
the fyre fere not the ketyll/ Sal. Brawlers and
janglers are to be kaste out of alle good cōpanye
Mar. An angry howsewyf/ the smoke/ the ratte
and a broken plater/ are osten tymes vnprofys
table in an howse Sal. For goddyns love men
are bownden to love othre/ Marc/ If thou love
hym that lovyth not the thou lesyth thy loue
Salo. Saye not to thy frende come to morowe
I shal vere the/ that thou maiste forthwyth vere
hym Mar. He sayth an othre tyme he shall
doo it/ that hath noth wherwyth redy for to do
it with alle Sal. He that is wyne dromke: hol-
dyth nothing that he sayth Marcolph² An
opyn arse hath no lord Salo/ Many coveyte to
have rychesse that with povertye are holdē vn-
dre Marcol. Ete that ye have/ and se what shall
reaigne Salomō There are many that sus-
teyne hungryr: and yet fedē they theyre wyves
Mar. The pore hady ne breedē/ ad yet he bought
an hownde Sal The sole answeryth aftyr hys
folisshnes/ for that he shulde not be knowyn wy-
se/ Mar/ what the stone heryth/ that shall te oke
answere Sal. wrathe hath no mercy / & trefore

He that angrely spekyth/beyth evple or shrewdly/Mar/ Saye not in thyng angre to thy frende no evyl/lest thou forthyngke it asteward? Sal. The mouthe of an ennemye kan saye no good. ne hys lyppys shall sownde no trouthe: Mar. he that loryth me not/doth not diffame me/Salo. Slepe as ye have nede/Mar/ He that leyth hym downe to slepe & kan not/is not at his hertys ease/Sal We haue well fyllyd youre beliys lete vs thanke god/Mar/ As the owsell whystelyth so answeryth the thrussh the hunger and the sulle synge not oon songe/Sal. Lete vs ete and drinke we shall alle deye Marc. The hunger dyeth as wele as the full feddy: As a man playeth vpon an harpe he kan not wele idicte Mar. So whā the hownde shytyngh he berkyth noth/Sal: The wretchyng wombe is full go we now to bedde. Marcol. He turnyth and walowyth & sleepyth evyl that hath not for to ete/Salo. Difspysethou not a lytyll yifte that is yeven the of a trewe frēde Mar. That a Geldyng man hath that veryth he to his neigborwes/Salo/ Go thou not wyth the evyll man or the brawelyng:lest thou suffre evyll for hym or perye Marcolph⁹ A dede bee makyngh no hony/Salo. If thou make frēdeship with a false and evylwyldy man.it shal hyndre the more than proffyte: Marcolphus: What the wolf doth/that pleasyth the wolfeſſe Salomon: He that answeryth afore

he is demaundyd shewyfgh hym self a sole: Mar
Whan a man tredyth drawelto you youre fete
Sal Every thing chesyth his lyke: Mar Where
a skabbyd horse is/he sekyth his lyke and eyther
of thaym gnappyth othre Salo. A meycyfull
man doth wele to his sowle Mar: He dyspyseth
a great yifte that knowyth not hym self Sal
He that skappyth te wolf/metyth the lyon/ Mar
colfus from evyll into worse/ as the Cooke to
a bakere: Sal Ware that no man do the non
evyll/if he do/do it not ayen Mar/ The styll stā-
dyng watyr/ & the man that spekyth but lytyll/
believe thaym not Salo. We may not alle be ly-
ke Mar/ It standeth wryten in a boke/ he that
hath no horse muste go on fote. Salo. A Chylde
of an hundred yere is cursyd Mar. It is to late
an olde hounde in a bande to lede. Sal. He that
hath shalbe yeuen/ & shall flowe. Mar. Woo to
that man that hath frendes & no breed/ Salom/
whoo to that man that hath a dwble herte/ ad
inbothe weyes wylle wādre. Mar He that woll
two weyes go muste eythre his ars or his bres
che tere/ Salom/ Of habuindance of therte the
mouth spekyst/ Mar. Out of a full wōbe thars
trompyth/ Salo/ Two oþē in one yocke drawē
lyke: Mar. Two veynes go lyke to oon ars.
Sal. A fayre woman is to belovyd c f hire hus-
bande/ Mar/ In the necke is she whyte as a dos-
ve, and in the ars blacke and derke lyke a molle.

Salo: Out of the generaciō of inda is my moost
kyndrede / n̄ the lord of my fadre hath made go-
uernoure ov̄r his people: **Mar.** I knowe wele
a tabylcloth: and of what werke it is made! **Sa-**
lomō Nede makyth a right wyse mā to do evyll
Mar. Ther wolf that is takyn ad set fast / eythre
he byteth or shyteth / **Sal.** Were it so that god al-
le the world vndre my power had set / it shulde
suffysse me / **Marc.** Men kan not yeve the katte
somoche / but that she woll hyr tayle wagge.

Sal. He that late comyth to dynner his parte is
leest in the mete **Mar.** The glouton kan not se
or renne alaboutc / **Salo** . Though it be so that
thy wif be so wre fere hit not / **Mr** The shēphide
that wakyth well: ther shall the wolf no wolle
shyte: **Sal.** It becōth no foles to speke or to bryng
ge forth any wyse reason. **Mar.** It becomyth
not a dogge to vere a fadylt / **Salo** whyles the
children are lytyll: reighte theyre lymmes: & ma-
ners / **Marc:** He that kyssyth the lambe / loryth
the shēpe: **Salo.** Alle reyght pathys god towar-
des oon weye: **Marc** So done alle the weynes
renne towardes the ars: **Salo.** Of a good man
comyth a good wif: **Marcols** Of a good mele co-
myth a great torde that men wyth theyre fete
trede So muste mē also / alle the bestyall wynes
trede vndre fote / **Salo:** A fayre wif becomyth
well by hir hussād / **Marc.** A pot full wyth wy-
ne becomith well by the thrsty / **Salo.** Wel beco-

myth a fapre sworde by my syde. Mar/ Wel be-
comith my hegge a great hepe of stony's Sal.
The gretter that ye be the more meke shulde ye
be in alle thyngys/ Mar/ he rydyth well that ri-
dyth wyth his felawes/ Sal/ The wyse chylde
gladyth the fadry: & the folyssh childe is a sorwe
to the modyr/ Mar. They synge not al oon so ge
the glady & the soray: Salo. he that sowyth wyth
skaerstye/repyth skaersly: Mar: The more it cry-
seth the more it byndeth: Sal. do alle thynges by
counsell & thou shalt not astre forthinke it/ Mar/
he is seke y nougħ that the sekeneſſe drawyth or
folowyth: Sal. Alle thinges have theyre ſeasōs
& tyme: Mar. Now daye to morwe daye. ſayde
the oþe: that the hare chacyd. Sa. I am wery of
spekyng: lefe vs therefore reſte Mar: Therfore
ſhall not y leue my clapping: Sa: i may no more
Mar/ yf ye maye no more yelde youre ſelf ovyr
comē: & yeue me that ye haue promyſed/ Wyth
that ſpake to marcolf Hanany as the ſone of jo-
iade: and zabuſ the kinges frende: and adomias
the ſone of abde whiche haddeñ the charge and
gouernanee ovyr the kyges tribute/ and ſayde:
Thou ſhalt not herefore be the thyrddē in the ki-
gedome of oure ſoueraigne lord. Me ſhall rather
put boþe thy nworſt pen out of thy moost vyle
hede: for it becomysh the bettyr to lye amonge
verys: than to be exal ted to any dignyte or ho-
nour/ Than marcolphus ſayde wherfor hath

the kiug than pmyseyd Than sayde the kinges
vij. prouostes/ that is to wyte Neithur Benas-
dachar Benesya Ben Benanides Banthabar
Athuradry Bominia Josephus Seines ad Sa-
mer/ Wherto comth this sole oure soveraign lor-
de althus to trouble and mocke Why dryue ye
hym not out wyth stavyng of his fyghte Tho say-
de salomon/ not so but yeue hym wele to ete and
drinke/ and lete hym thau goo in pease To spak
marcolphus goyng his weye to thc king/ I suf-
fre y noug what that ye haue sayde I shall al-
weyes saye There is no kipg were no lawe is

Onys vpon a tyme the king rode an hantynge
wyth his hunterys and howndes and fortuny-
d hym to come by the house of marcolf: And
turnyd hym self thidrewardes wyth his horse
and demaunded hym self his hede inclyned vndre
the dorre bo we who was wythm. Marcolf as-
weryd to the king: Wythm is an hool man & an
half. & an horse hede & the more that they ascen-
de the more they downe falle To that spak salo-
mon what menyst thou therwithall/ Tho as we
ryd marcolphus The hole man is my self syt-
tyng wythm/ ye are the half man sytting wyp-
thoute vpon youre horse lokynge in wyth you-
re hede declyned. And the horse hede is the
hede of youre horse that ye sytte on: Than Salo-
mon demaunded of Marcolphus what they

were that clyme vp and fallyn downe. Mar
col: Answeryd & sayde: they are the benys boyls
lyng in the pott Salom̄ / where is thy fadyr: thy
modyr / thy sustyr / and thy brothyr / Mar: My
fadyr is in the felde and makyth of oon harme
two My modyr is goon and dooth to her neigh-
bor we that she nevyr more shall do my brothyr
sytting wþouthute the house sleyth alle that he
fyndeth My sustyr sitteth in hire chambre &
beweþyth that a fore tyme she laughyd. Salom̄
What betokenth they Mar: My fadyr is i the
felde and puttyth or settyth thornys in a foot
path / & comyng men they make an oþre path
therby / & so he makyth of oon harme two My
modyr is goon and closyth the yes of her nevgh-
bor we deying the whiche she shall nevyr more
do My brothyr sytting withoute the house i the
sonne & lowsyth & alle that he fyndeth he sleyth
My sustyr the laste vere loyyd a yonge man ad
wþ kyssyng / laughyng / tastyng / jappyng & play-
ing: she was getyn wþ chylde: whereof she
now travayllyth and that now she beweþyth
sore: Salomon How comyth to the alle this
wysdome & subtylete / Marcolfus In the tyme
of king dauid youre fadyr there was a yongeman
his phisicia. & as he onys had takyn a vulture
for to occupye in his me dicins / and had takyn
therof that was to hym expedyet So toke you-
re modyr Barsebea the herte & leyde it upon a

cruste of breed) and rostydy it vpon the fayre / And
rave you the herte to ete / and I thāne beyng in
the kechē / she kast at my hede the cruste through
moysted wyth therete of the vulture: / & that ete i
and therof I suppose is comē to me my subtilitie
lyke as to you is comen by etyng of therete wyse
dom. Salomō As verelē god helpe the. in gabaa
god appiertyd to me / & fulfylled to me wyth sapiē-
ce. Marcolph⁹ He is holdyn wyse that reputysh
hym self a sole: Sa. Haste thou not herde what
rychesse god hath revyn me aboven that wyse-
domme Mar. I have herde it And i knowe well
that where god woll there reynyth it. To that
sayd salomō all laughyngly / my folkys wayte v
pon me withoute i may no leugyr wyth the tal-
ke / but saye to thy modyr that shē sende me of hit
beste cowe a pot full of mylke / and that the pot
of the same cowe be coveryd. / & bringe thou it to
me: Marcolph⁹ It shalbe done. King salomon
wyth his compayne rydynge towardys ierusalē
was honourably receyvyd as a riche and moost
puyssāt king. And whan flosceny a marcolph⁹
modyr was comyn home to hit house / he dede
to hit the kīges message Thā shē takig a pot full
wyth mylke of hit cowe / and coveryd it wyth
a flawne of the same mylke made. and sent it so
forth to the king by hit sone / as marcolph⁹ went
ovyr the felde the wethir was warme of the so-
ne sawe lying there a drye bakyn cowe torde: /

for haste he vnenethe cowde set downe the pot
to the erthe but that he had etyn the frawne / ad
toke vp the cowe torde . and ther wylc copyrd
the pot : And so copyrd presentyd it before the
king . and he askyd why is the pot thus copyrd .
Marcolf My lord have not ye comaundered that
the milke shulde be copyrd of the same cowe / Sa
lo . I comaundered not so to be done : Mar . Thus
I vndyrstode / Sal . It had ben bettyr copyrd
wyth a frawne made wyth the mylke of the sa
me Cowe . Mar . So was it furste done / but hū
gyr chamigyd wyt / Sal How : Marc . I wiste
wele that ye had no nede of mete / and I having
great hūgyr eate the frawne wyth mylke anyon
ted / and for that wyth wyt chungyd / the pot I
have thuscoveryd wyth a cowe torde . Sal now
leve we all this . and yf that thou thys nyght wa
ke not aswele as I : thou mayste haue no trusse
to morne of thy hede . Salomō & maccolph con
sentyd bothe . & wythin a lytyll whyle aftyr mar
colph began to rowte / Salo . sayde marcolf thou
sleyst : Marcolph answeryd . Lord I do not I
thinke / Salomon / what thinkyst thou / Marcolf
I thinke that there are as many joynys in the
cayle of an hare / as i hire chyne : Salomō if thou
pve not that to morne thou arte worthy to deye
Salomon beyng stille / began marcolph to slepe:
ayen and sayde to hym / thou sleyst And he ans
weryd / I do not / for I thynke / Salomon what

thynkest thou / Marcolphus / I thynke that the
ppe hath as many whyte fethrys as blacke. Sa-
lomid But thou also prove that trewe thou shalt
lese thyn hede / As salomon ayen began to be styl-
le Marcolph began ayen to rowte and to blowe
And Salomō sayd to hym thou sieppyst / Marcol-
phus Nay I thinke Salomon / What thinkest
thou / Marcolph I thinke that vndre therhe
is no clerer thing than ih̄ daye / Salomō Is the
daye clerer than mylke / Marcolph Ye / Salomō
That muste thou prove. Anone herupon began
marcolphus to slepe. Salo. Thou sieppyst / Mar/
I slepe not but I muse Salomon What i:uispst
thou. Marcolph I muse how that men may not
surely triste the women. Salomon / And ihat
of the shalve provyde / Anon aftyr as Salomon
was stylle began marcolf ayen to blowe and to
slepe. Salomo / thou sieppyst / Marcolph I do not
but I thinke / Salomō What thinkest thou. Mar-
coph I thinke how ihat nature goth afore le-
nyng / Salomon / If thou prove not that trewe
thou shalt lese thyn hede / Aftyr that the nyght
was ovy2 pass; d;. and salomon myry of wakynge
put hym self to reste / Than marcolf lefte the king
and ran hastely to hys sustyr fudasa / and sayd
ned; hym self sorwefull and hevy and sayde to
hyre / The king Salomon is ayenst me / and
I may not here hys threytys and iniries / and

but I shall take this knyf / & hyde it secretly vñ
dyr my clothes / ad there wþt thys daye all pry-
uely he not knowyng I shall snyte hym to ther-
te and sle hym: now good dere sustyr I praye
the accuse me not but iu any wyse kepe it secrete
ne shewe it not to myn owne brothyr Bufrydol/
Fudasa answeryd my dere and levest brothyr
Marcolf put no doubtes therin I had levyr dye
and be brent at a stake rather tha I shulde disco-
vre it or accuse the. Aftyr that retouryd mar-
colf all pryvily to wardys the kynges Courte
The sone ryng & spredyng hys beamys ovyr
ther the illuminedy & fulfyllyd the kynges palay-
ce: and salamon ryng from his bed wente and
sat in the trone or sete of his palayce Than com
maunded he to bringe a fore hym an hare. and
asmany joyntes iu his tayle as in hys chyne we-
re fownden by marcolph and nombredys ¶
Thanne was there a pye brought before the
king/ and asmany whyte fethrys as black wes-
re fownden by marcolph And thane toke mar-
colph a great panne wþt inylke ad set it in the
kynges bedchambre all pryvily. and closyd to
alle the wyndowes that no lyght myght in co-
me Thanne kallyd he the king into the chambre/
And as he eome in he stumblyd at the panne &
was nygh fallyn therin Tho was the king an-
gry and displeasyd / & sayd thou fowle evyl bo-
dy/ what is it that thou doost Marcolph aswe

rydye ought not herefore to be angry. For ha-
ue ye not sayd that milke is clerer than the daye
How is it that ye se not awale by the clerenesse
of the mylke as ye do bi the clerenesse of the daye
juge egaly and ye shall fynde that I haue no-
thyng mysdone vnto you. Salomon God forye-
ue the. my clothys be all wyth mylke sprongyn
And mygh I had my necke brokyn and yet thou
haste me nothing trespassyd. Marcolphus aswe-
ryd a oþre tyme se bettyr to fore youlnevyrhte-
lesse sytte downe and do me justyce vpon a ma-
ter that I shall shewe afore you: Whan he was
set Marcolph complayned and shewyd Lord I
have a sustyr that hath to name Fudasa and she
hath yeven hymself to horedam and is wyth chil-
de wherwyth she shamyth and dishonestyd alle
oure bloode and lvnage: and yet wolde she par-
te wyth me in my fathres good and herytage
Thanne sayde Salomon Lete hyr come a fore
vs: And we shall here hyr what she woll saye
herto. As Salomon sawe hyr come from ferre
sayde all laughyngly Thys may wele be Mar-
colphus sustyr This fudasa was short ad thyc-
ke and therto was she great wyth chylde/ and
thus was she thycker tha she was of lengthe
She had thycke leggys and short. and went on
bote lame wyth vysage yen and stature lycke
to Marcolph. Salomon sayde to Marcolph/

What complaynest or askyst thou af thy sustyr.
Marcolph answeryd: My lord I complayne ad
shewe opynly afore you of my sustyr/that she is
a stronge harlot and a strumpet/ ad is wyth chyl-
de.as ye may se.and alle oure blood and kyntede
by hyr is shamyd/, that wythstanding she wol-
de dele and parte wyth me in my fathres good
and herytage Wherfore I requyre you of iusty-
ce.and that ye commaunde hire that she take no
parte ne make no clayme thereto. This heryng
Fudasa replete wyth angre and woednesse cry-
ed/ on hygh and sayde: Thou fowle mysshapyn
harlot wherfore shulde not I have my parte in
oure fadres good and herytage.and is not fflos-
cemya moder to vs bothe: Marcolph Thou shalt
not have any dele or parte therin For thin offese
iugeth the clerely therfro Fudasa Therfore I
may not lese myn herytage. For have I mydone
I shall amende it/ but oon thyng I promyse the/
and swere by god/ and all hys myght. yf thou
wylt not lete me be in pease:and suffre me to ha-
ue my parthe in the land. I shall shewe suche a
thyng of the.that the king or it be nyght shall
do the to behangyd/: Marcolphus/ Thou fowle
synkyng hore.what kanst thou saye of me I ha-
ue no man mydone/saye thy worste I dyffye
the/thou haste moche misdone thou fowle facys-
d/ knave and rybaulde that thou art. For thou
gladly woldyst see the king/and yf ye beleve not

me seke vndyr his cote & ye shal fynde the knyf
Tho was the knyf sought by the kinges seruau-
tys and it was not fownde. Sayde marcolph to
the king and to the aboutestanders. And have I
not sayde trouthe: that men shulde not put ovyr
muche trusste or confidēce in the wome. Wyth that
they alle begā to laughē. Tho sayd salomō. Mar-
colph Thou doost alle thy thynges by craste and
subtyltye. Marcolph as weryd. Lord it is no sub-
tyltye. but that my sustyr had promyſed me to
have kept it secrete / & ſhe hath falsely discovered
it as though it had ben of a trouthe. Salomon/
Wherfore haste thou ſayd that arte or nature.
goth before lernyng. Marcolph Take pacience
a lytell and afore or ye go to bedde I ſhal ſhewe
you The dawe paſſyd ovyr and the tyme of ſou-
per cam on. The king ſat to ſowper and oþre.
Wyth whom ſat marcolph. and had alle pryves-
ly put into hys ſſeve thre quyk myſe. There was
no ryſſhyd in the kinges house a Catte that eve-
ry nyght as the king ſat at ſowper: was wont
to holde betwyxt hyre fore feet a brennyng ka-
dell vpon the tabyll. Thanne lete marcolph oon
of the myſe go out of his ſſeve. As the catte that
ſaugh ſhe woide have lept aftyr: but the king ya-
uc hyr a wynke or countenaunce that ſhe bode
ſtylle ſytting and removyd not. and in lyke wy-
ſe dede ſhe of the ſecunde mowſe. Thanne lete
marcolph the thrydde mowſe go: and as the kat

te sawe he cowde no lenger abyde. but kaste the
kādell awaye and lept aftyr the mowse and to-
ke it. And as marcolph that sawe: sayde to the
king. Here I have now provyd before you that
nature goth afore lernyng: Tho commaundedyn
Salomon his seruauntes. have thys man out of
my syghte: and if he come hyttere any more / set
my howndes vpon hym. Marcolph⁹: now for
certayne I knowe and may saye that wher as
the hede is seke and evyll at ease / there is no lawe
As marcolph was thys out dryven: he seyde to
hym self / neythre so nor so shall the wyse Salo-
mon of marcolf be quyte. on the next morwyng
folowyng as he was out of his couche or kenel
eysen / he bethoughte hym in his mynde how he
myght beste gete hym ayen into the kinges cour-
te wythout hurte or devouryng of the howndes
he wēt & bought a quyk hare / & put it vndre his
clothis & yede ayen to the courte And whan the
kinges seruauntes had syghte of hym / they set v-
pon hym alle the howndes & forthwyth he caste
the hare from hym: and the howndes astre. & lef-
te marcolph. and thus came he ayen be the king
And as he sawe hym he askyd who had letyn
hym in. Marcolph aweryd wyth great sutyltie
am i in come. Sal' Be ware that thys daye thou
spytte not but vpon the bare grownde / The pa-
layce was all coveryd wyth tapetts. & the wal-
les hāgyd wyth riche clothys. Marcolf wythin

short space aftyr / wþth his talkyng & clateryng
wþth oþre his mouth was full of spyttyll began
to cough and reche vp / beholdyng alaboute hym
wher he myght best spytte & cowd synde no ba-
re erthe: sawe a ballyd man stondyng by the kig
barehedyd / and spatyld / evyn vpon his forehe-
de. The ballyd man was ther wþth assamyd
made clene his forehede: and syll on kneyes befo
re the kingys fete / and made a complaynt vpon
marcolph. Salomō Wherfore haste thou ma-
de fowle the forehede of this man. Mar. I have
not made it fowle but i have dungyd it / or made
it fat. for on a bareyne grownde. it behovþt dyr-
ge to be layde. that the corne that is therō sowyn
may the bettyr growe and multiplye. Saolmon
What is that to this man. Mar. My lord have
ye not forbedyn me / that this daye I shulde not
spytte but vpon the bare erthe / & I sawe his fo-
rehede all bare of herys: and thyndyng it be ba-
re erthe. and therefore I spyttd / vpon it. The
king shall not be angry for this thing for i have
done it for the manys proffyte for and if his fo-
rehede were thus vfyd / to be made fat the herys
shulde ayen encrease & multiplye. Salo. God ye-
ue the shame for the ballyd men aught to be abo-
ue oþre men in honure. for balydnesse is no sha-
me bnt a begynnyng of worschip. Marcolphus/
Balydnesse is a flyes nest Beholde i not syre how
the flyes folowe more his forehede thā alle the

o hre that ben wþin thys honse. for why they
crouē that it be a vessell curyng full wþis som
good drake or ellis to be a stone anoynted wþ
any swete thyng. and therfore they haste thayn
to his bare forehede To this sayd the bailyd mā
afore the kig: Wherto is this moost vyle ryhaul
de sufferyd in the kinges presence vs to rebuke
and shame. lete hym be cast out. Marcolph/ and
be it pease in thy vertn/ and i shalbe stylle. here:
wythall come yn two women bryngyngh wyth
thaym a lyving chylde/ for the wyrche they afore
the king began to stryne: For the oon sayde it bet
lōgyd to hyre / but the oð of thaym had forlayne
hyre chylde sleepyngh So that they were in stryre
for the levyngh chylde/ Salomō sayd to oon of his
servauntis: take a sworde & departe ihys chylde
in two pecys: and reue eyther of thaym the oon
half/ That heriyng the naturall bodyr of the ly-
vyngh chylde: sayde to the king Lord i beseeche you
jeve it to that woman all hool lyvyngh/ for the his
the verraye modyr therof. Than sayde Salomō
that she was the modyr of the chylde and yave
it to hire/ Marcolph demandedyd of the king how
he the modyr knewe. Salomon By chaungyngh
of hit colure and affection/ and by effutyd of te-
rys/ Marcolphus ye myghte so bediscreyvedy/
for beleue ye the wepyng of the wome/ and are
so wyse and knowe the crafte of thaym no bet-
tyr/ whyllys a woman weyþ she laughyth

wyþ þerfe/ They kan wepe wyþ oon yie / ad
lawgh wyþ the oþyr. They make contenance
wyþ the wysage that they thinke not They spe-
ke wyþ the tige that they mene not wyþ ther-
te They promyse many tymes that they parfor-
me not bnt they chaunge theyre contenances
as theyre myndes renne/ The women have in-
numerable craftes/ Salomon As many craftes
as they have/ so many good condicyns and pro-
pertyes they haue/ Marcolph⁹ Saye not good
condicyns or propertyes. but saye shrewdnes-
sys and decepcyons. Salomon Surely s̄he was
an hore that bare s̄inche a sone. Marcolph Whe-
refore saye ye so. Salomon For thou blamyst al-
le women/ and they are honest chaste meke/ lo-
vynge and curtyse/ Marcolf To that myght ye
adde & saye that they are brotyll and mutable.
Salomō If they be brotyll: that have they of ma-
nys condicyns/ yf they be chaungeable that have
they by delectacion: Womā is though made of
manys rybbe/ and yeven vnto hym for his helpe
and comfort For womā is asnoche to saye as
a weyke erthe or a weyke thyngē/ Mar:jn like
wyse it is asnoche to saye as a softe errore/
Sal There lyest thou false kaytyf Thou miste
nedys be evyll and onhappy .that sayst so moche
shame and harme of women For of wome we
are alle comen/ and therfore he that seyth evyll
of the kynde of women/ is greatly to be blamyd

for what is rychesse/ wat is kingdomes/ what
is possesſſōs/ what is goold what is sylver what
is costely clothynge or ſciousē ſtōys/ what is cos-
tely metys or drinkeſ. what is good cōpanye or
ſolace/ what is myrthe whitoute women. On
trouthe they may calle wele the world deed that
from women are exiled or banyſſhed. For wo-
men muſte bere the chyldre they ſede & norþſſhe
thaym vp/ and love thaym well. She deſpryth
thayre helthys. She gouernyth the household.
She ſorwyth the helthe of hyr husband & house-
hold. women is the dilectaſon of alle thinges: ſhe
is the ſweetneſſe of youthe. She is the ſolace of
joye of age. She is gladneſſe of childre: She is
joye of the daye. She is ſolace of the nyght. She
is the gladynd of laboure. of alle hevynneſſes. ſhe
is the forgeter. She ſervyth whithoute grūc-
hyng. And ſhe ſhall watche my going out/ and
myn incomyng. Ther vpon answeryd marcol-
phus. he ſeyth trouthe. that thinkyth wyth his
herte. as he ſpekyth wyth his moouth. ye haue
the women in great favoure & therfore ye pray
ſe thaym. Rychesſe nobylneſſe fayrenesse & wyp-
ſedom be in you. and therfore it behovyth you
to love women. but y assure you one thyng a'be
it that ye now prayſe thaym ovyr moche/ or ye
ſepe ye ſhal dyspraye thaym as faste. Salomō
Theroſt thou ſhalt lyve/ for alle my lyve dayes I
have louyd women & ſhall duryng my lyf. But

now go frō me / & se wele to. that before me thou
nevyr speke evyll of wommen Than marcolphus
goyng out of the kynges palayce. kallyd to hym
the womā that had hit childe to hyre yeven a yē
by the king and sayd to hyre knowyst thou not
what is done & concluded in the kingys cōsell
to daye. She answeryd my chylde is pevn me
ayē a lyve what ellys there is done. that knowe
not I. Tho sayd marcoph the king hath cōmaū-
ded & is vttirly detmyned that to morwe thou
and thy felawe shall come ayen afore hym: and
that thou shalt have the one half of thy chylde / &
thy felawe the othre half Thā sayde the womā
O what evyll king / & what false & vntrewe sen-
tence verryth he. Marcoph sayde yet shall i shewe
the grettyr matiers & more chargeable & of gret-
tyr weyghte The kig & his cōseyle hath ordeyned
that evyr man shall have viij. wyves therfor
remembre & thinke what therin is best to be do-
ne. for as one man hath viij. wyves so shall ther
nevyr more be reste or pease in thouse one shal
be belovyd / an othre shall displease hym for hit
that he loveth shalbe moost wyth hym: and the
othre nevyr or seldom She shalbe wele clothyd
& the othre shalbe forgetyn: hyr that he loveth
best shall haue ryngys jo wellys goold sylvyt fur-
res & were fylkys She shal kepe tijhe keyes of al
le the house She shalbe honouryd of alle the ser-
vantes and be kallyd mastres Alle his goodes

shall falle to hire: what shall thau saye the oþre
vi. And yf he love twerne: what shal the oþre
v. saye. & yf he love thre what shal saye the oþre
iii. & yf he love iii: what shall the oþre iii. do &c.
That he lovyth best he shall awayes have by
hym & kysse hire and halse hyre The oþyr shall
mowe saye that they are neyþre wydowes nor
weddyd nor yit vnweddyd. nor wþthoute hus-
bande They shal mowe well forþynke that
they have theyre mayndeshede loste There shall
evyr stryff angre enye and bramelyng reigne &
if there be not fownde a remedy herefore many
great inconvenyencys shall growe there of And
by cause that thou arte a woman and we ll ac-
queynted wþth the condicions of wome: haste
the and shewe thys to alle the ladyes and wome
wythin this citie ad aduyse thaym that they o-
fente not to it in anywyse. but wþtstande it ad
saye ayenst the king and his counsayll. Marcolf
retourned ad went ayen to the courte & pryyly
hyd hym in a corner And the woma trowyd his
wordys to be trewe. ranne troughe the citie & clap-
pyd hire handys to gydre and cryed wþth opyn
mowthe & shewyd all that she had herd ad mo-
re And ech neyghbor we or gossyp saide it forth
to an oþre So that in shor tyme there was a
great assemble or gaderyng of women wel nigh
that alle the women that weren wythin the

Littie. and se gadredy went to the kynges palayse
well by the nombre of. vi. vi. women and brak
vp dorys and oryz wet the kyng and his coun-
sell wþt great malyce and lowde crying: The
kyng as he this herde appyd what the canse was
of thayre gaderyng. To that oon woman that
wyser and more eloquent than the oþre: sayde
vnto the king. Moost myghty prynce to whom
goold/þilver/preciousse stones and alle rychesse of
the world tho you are brought ye do alle ihyng
as ye woll. and non ayensayth youre pleasure:
ye have a Quene and many Quenys. and oryz
that ye have cocubynes or paramours wþt hou-
te nombre or as as many as you pleaseyth for ye
have all that ye wol: So may not every man do.
Salomon answeyd God hath annoynted and
made me king in ista hel may I not ihan do and
accomplyssh all my wylle Do youre wylle wþt
youre owne. and medie not wþt vs. we are of
the noble blood of Abraham and holde moyses
lawe/ Wherfor woll ye ihaue that chaunge and
altre: ye are bounden to do right and iustyce.
Wherfore do ye vnyght/ Tho sayde Salomon
wþt great vnpacience. Thou shan full wyf
what vnrighþ or wronge do y She asweryd: as
great vnrighþ do ye as kan be thought or ymag-
ined For ye haue ordyned that every man shal ha-
ue mowe lawefullly viij. wynes/ & certaynli that
shall not be: For there is not that prynce/ duke/

or erle that so riche and puissaunt is/but that oō
womā alone shall now fullfylle. alle his desyres
and wylle.what thanne shulde he do wyth .vij.
wyves:it is aboven any manys myght or po-
wer: It were bettyr ordeyned that oon womā
shulde have vij. husbondes Than sayd Salomō
all laughyngly I had not trowed that of men
had ben fewer in nombre than of women Tho
kryed alle the women as mad people wyth ou-
te any reasou/ye are anevyle king & youre sen-
ces ben false and unrightfull Now may we wel
here & se that it is trouthe that we have herd of
you:and that ye have of vs sayde evyll:and ther-
to ye skorue & mocke vs before oure vysages
that we se it O lord god who was so evyle as sau-
le that regnyd over us furste yet davyd was
worse and now this Salomō werst of alle than
the king beyng full of wrathe sayde There is no
hede more worse than the serpent/and there is
no malyce to the malyce of a woman:for it wes-
re bettyr to delle wyth serpentys and lyðs/tha
wyth a wyckyd woman Alle evyll are but lytyl
tho the cursydnesse:of a shrewd woman Alle
wyckydnesse falle vpon women/as the sande
fallyth in the shhoes of the oolde people goyng vp
an hylle So a talkatyf woman and dishobedyet
is a great confusyon That wif that is hir hus-
bondes maister is evyr contrarye to hym An evyl
wif makyth a pacient herte, and a soray vysage

It as plage of the deth A woman was the be-
gynnyng of synne and through hire we dye alle
The woman that is luxuriose may men kno-
wen in the vpperinest of hire yes. And by hit bro-
wes For hire yes are wþthoute revy reþce & ther
nede nomā wondre although she forgete hit hus
bonde As the king althus had sayd. so spak na-
than the prophete and sayde My lord why rebu-
ke ye & shame ye thus alle thies women of iheru-
sæle. Salomō have ye not herd what dishonoure
they have sayd of me wþthoute deser wyng / Na-
than answeryd he that woll wþth hys subgiet-
tys lyve in reste & pease he muste som tyme be
blynde dumme. & deef. Salomō. it is to be aweryd
to a sole astyr his folysshnes. Tho sprāge Mar-
colph out of the corner that he sat in And sayde to
the king now have ye spokyn astyr myn intent.
for ones thys daye ye praysed womē out of alle
mesure and now have ye disprayed thaym as
moche. that is it that I sought: alwayes ye ma-
ke my saying trewe: Salo. Thou sowle evyle bo-
dy knowyst thou of this cōmpcion: Marcolph/
nay. nevrþt helesse ye shulde not yeue credence to
alle thing that ye here Tho sayd the king salomō
go from hens out of my syghte: & I charge the
that i se the nomere betwixt the yes forth with
was marcolph cast out of the kinges palayse/
Than they that stodē by the king saydē: my lord
speke to thiese womē sumwhat that may please

thaym to here. to shentēt that they may departe
Than turnyd the king towardes thaym & sayd
youre goodnessse shal vndrestande. that I am not
to be blanyd in that: that ye laye to my charge.
That evyl sayer marcolf that ye here late sawe.
hath out of hym self alle this matier surmysed &
sayned: ad every man shall have hys owne wyp
& hyr wyth faythe & honestie love and cheryshe
That I have spokyn ayenst the wyves I haue
not sayde it but ayenst the froward wyves who
shulde of the good wyves speke any evyll For a
good wyp makyth hyr husbande glad ad blythe
wyth hyre goodnessse She is a parte the lyryng
of hyre husband upon erthe. and hyr lernyng ad
vauntagyth or forthryth hyr body She is a yif-
te of god A wyse wyp and a stylle is a grace abo-
uen graces A good shame fast and an honeste
wyp is lyke the sonne clymmyng vp to god. A
wyp of good condicpons is the ornament or ap-
parayle of the house She is a lyght shynyng
bryghther than the lyght of cādellis: She is ly-
ke the goolden pyller standyng vpon hir feet and
an ovyr faste fundament grwinded vpon a sure
stone wythoute mutacions and the commande-
mantys of god evyr in hyr mynde The hooly
god of Israhel blesse you and multiplye youre se-
de and kyndrebede vnto the ende of ihe worlde
Tho sayde they alle/ aine: And toke leve of the

king and went theyre weyes: Marcophs beryng
in his mynde of the vnkynnesse that the king
had comanded hym that he shulde no more
se hym betwixt the yes Thought in hym self.
what was best to do. It happenyd that the next
nyght folowyng fyll a great snowe Marcolph⁹
toke a lytyll Lyve or Lemse in his oon hande &
a foot of a bere in the othre hande: ad he turnydy
hys shoes tyat stode forwardes vpon his feet
bakward and vpon the mornyng erly he began
to go lyke a beste vpon alle fowre feet through
the strete. and whan he was comen a lytyll wy-
thouthe the towne: he fownde an olde ovyn / ad
crept into it. And as the lyght of the daye was
on comen.oon of the kingys seruaunys founde
the footstappys of marcolph/ and thought that it
was the trace or stappys of a merveylous beste
& in alle haste wet & shewyd it to the king Thā-
ne incontynent wþt huntres and howndes he
wente to hunte and seke the sayd wondrefull
beeste and folowed it vnto they comen before
the oven where they had loste and fownde no
more of the steppys. The king Salomon discen-
ded from hys hors and began to loke into the
oven. Marcolpus laye all crokyd hys vysage
from hym wardes. had put downe hys breche
into hys hanunes that be myght se hys ars ho-
le and alle hys othre fowle gere. As the kyng

Salomō that seyng demawnded what laye ther
re. Mar. āsweryd: I am here: Sal' wherfore ly-
est thou thus? Marcolf. for ye haue commann-
ded me that ye shulde nomore se me betwyxt
myn yes. Now and ye woll not se me betwyxt
myn yes: ye may se me betwene my buttockys
in the myddes of myn arsehole: Than was the
king sore meovyd cōmaunded by his seruaunys
to take hym & hange hym vpon a tre. Mar. So
takyn. sayde to the kyng: My lord well it please
you to yere me leue to chose the tre wherupon
that I shall hāge Sal' sayde be it as thou haste de-
syred: for it forcyth not on what tre that thou be
hangyd. Than the kinges seruautes to ke & led-
dyn marcolph wythoute the citie & through the
vale of iosaphath & ovyr the syghte of the hylle
of olyuete from theus to ierirho. & comde fynde
no tre that marcolf wolde chese to be hanged on
From thens went they ovyr the flome iordane
and alle abyte through And so forth all the gre-
at wyldernesse vnto the rede see: And nevirmo
re comde marcolph fynde a tre that he wolde che-
se to hange on And thus he askappyd out of the
dawnger & handes of king salomō/ and turnyd
apen vnto hys howse/ and lervyd in pease & ioye
And so mote we alle do aboven wyth the fadre
of heven Amen

Emprentyd at ande werpe by
me M. Gerard leeu

